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Greg Jergeson, Chairman
District 1

January 17, 2007

Honorable Greg Lind, Chairman
Senate Natural Resources Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Lind & Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

During the hearing on Senate Bill 3 before the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Monday, January 15, a dispute arose between the testimony of Dave Gibson from Qwest, and myself as chairman of the Public Service Commission. That dispute centered on the line loss experience of Qwest. A reasonably correct number used in an incorrect context is an error, none-the-less. In this case the error was mine, not Mr. Gibson's.

The source of the confusion arose from my incomplete review of the transcript from the November 1, 2006 hearing in Docket No. D2006.3.39, the Qwest Deregulation Docket. In the hearing, Monica Tranel of OneEighty Communications, asked the Qwest witness, Cheryl Gillespie, "Could you tell me if Qwest lost 80,000 access lines in Montana in the last three months of 2004?" Ms. Gillespie responded "No, that's a regional number."

The following is the number of access lines in service for Qwest in Montana from the end of year 2001 through end of year 2005 taken from the Qwest annual reports.

Year	Access lines
2001	393904
2002	383286
2003	367038
2004	350955
2005	328667

As can be seen, Qwest did lose 65237 lines in Montana in the four year period ending December 31, 2005. We will not receive the 2006 Qwest Annual Report until April. However, Mr. Gibson, in an E-Mail to me stated that Qwest had 300,642 access lines in Montana at the end of 2006, for a five year loss of 93162.

I apologize for my error. I believe the numbers presented in this letter are now correct in the correct context.

Sincerely,

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Montana Public Service Commission

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